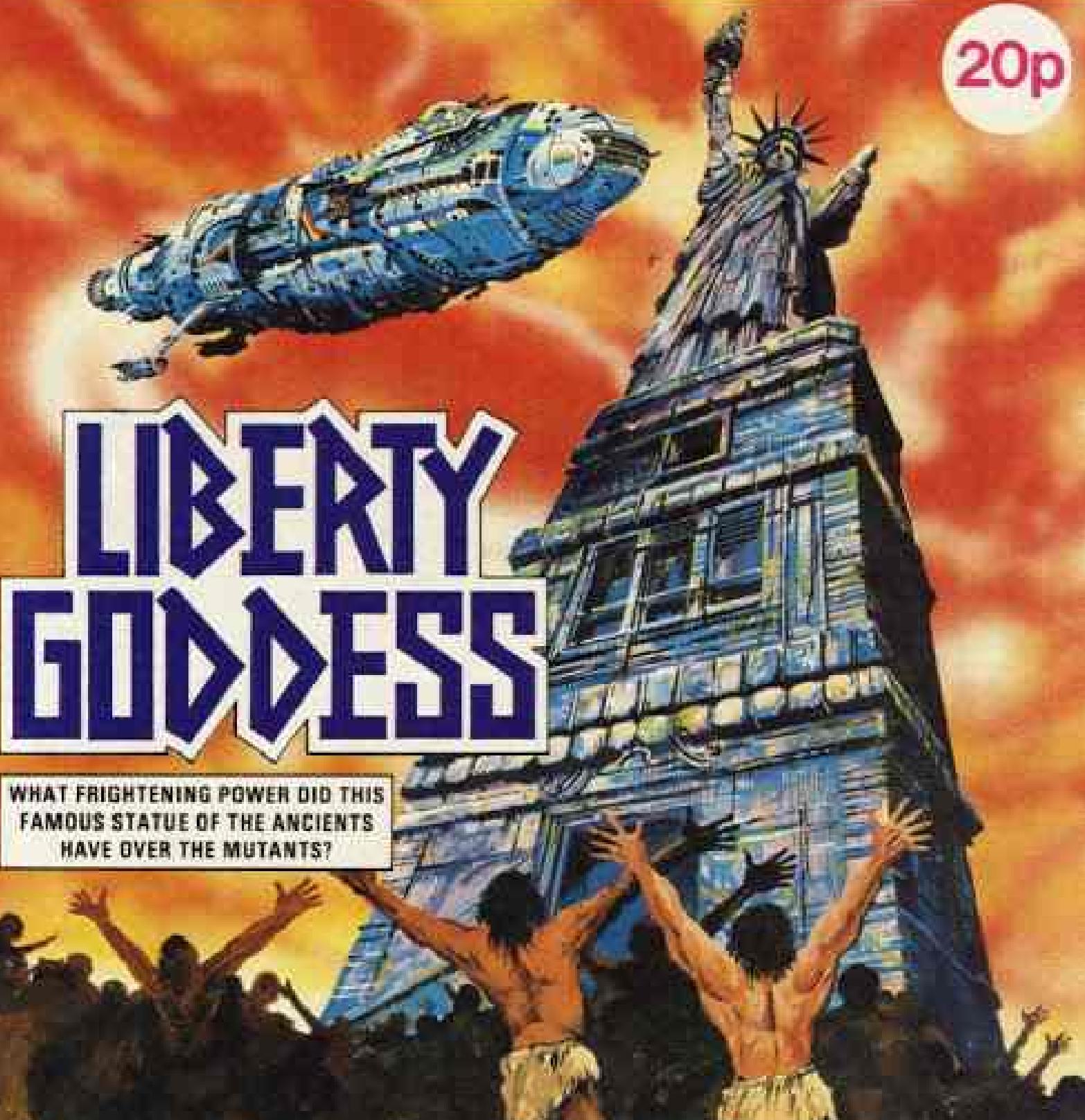


# STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 115

20p



## LIBERTY GODDESS

WHAT FRIGHTENING POWER DID THIS  
FAMOUS STATUE OF THE ANCIENTS  
HAVE OVER THE MUTANTS?

# STARBLAZER



THIS STORY STARTS IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY — THE YEAR IS 2130: SEVENTY YEARS PREVIOUSLY THE EARTH HAD BEEN DEVASTATED IN A SURPRISE ATTACK BY THE SHAPESHIFTERS FROM THE PLANET RIGEL — A RACE OF WARLIKE ALIENS WITH THE ABILITY TO CHANGE THEIR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE. THE WAR RAGED ON WITH HUMANITY PUSHING THE SHAPESHIFTERS BACK. FIGHTING FROM WELL-FORTIFIED COLONIES ON OTHER PLANETS AND THEIR SATELLITES IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM, THE EARTH GOVERNMENT BEGAN TO MAKE SOME HEADWAY. AGENTS INFILTRATED MANY SHAPESHIFTER STRONGHOLDS IN AN ATTEMPT TO SEEK VITAL INFORMATION.

# LIBERTY GODDESS

IN THE SHAPESHIFTER'S TACTICAL  
COMMAND CENTRE, ON DISTANT RIGEL,  
THE WARLORD GOTTARRA HAD JUST  
FINISHED OUTLINING A PLAN TO HIS  
CAPTAINS.

... AND THIS WILL ENABLE US TO  
CRUSH THE TERRAN ONCE AND FOR  
ALL!



GOTTARRA WAS UNAWARE THAT CAL BROGAN, ONE OF EARTH'S TOP AGENTS, HAD INFILTRATED THE MEETING DISGUISED AS A SHAPESHIFTER.



I MUST WARN EARTH! IF THIS PLAN GOES AHEAD, THEY'LL BE ABLE TO WIPE OUT EVERY COLONY IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM IN ONE DEVASTATING SWEEP!



THE SHAPESHIFTERS CHANGED THEIR FORM, BUT BROGAN COULDN'T —

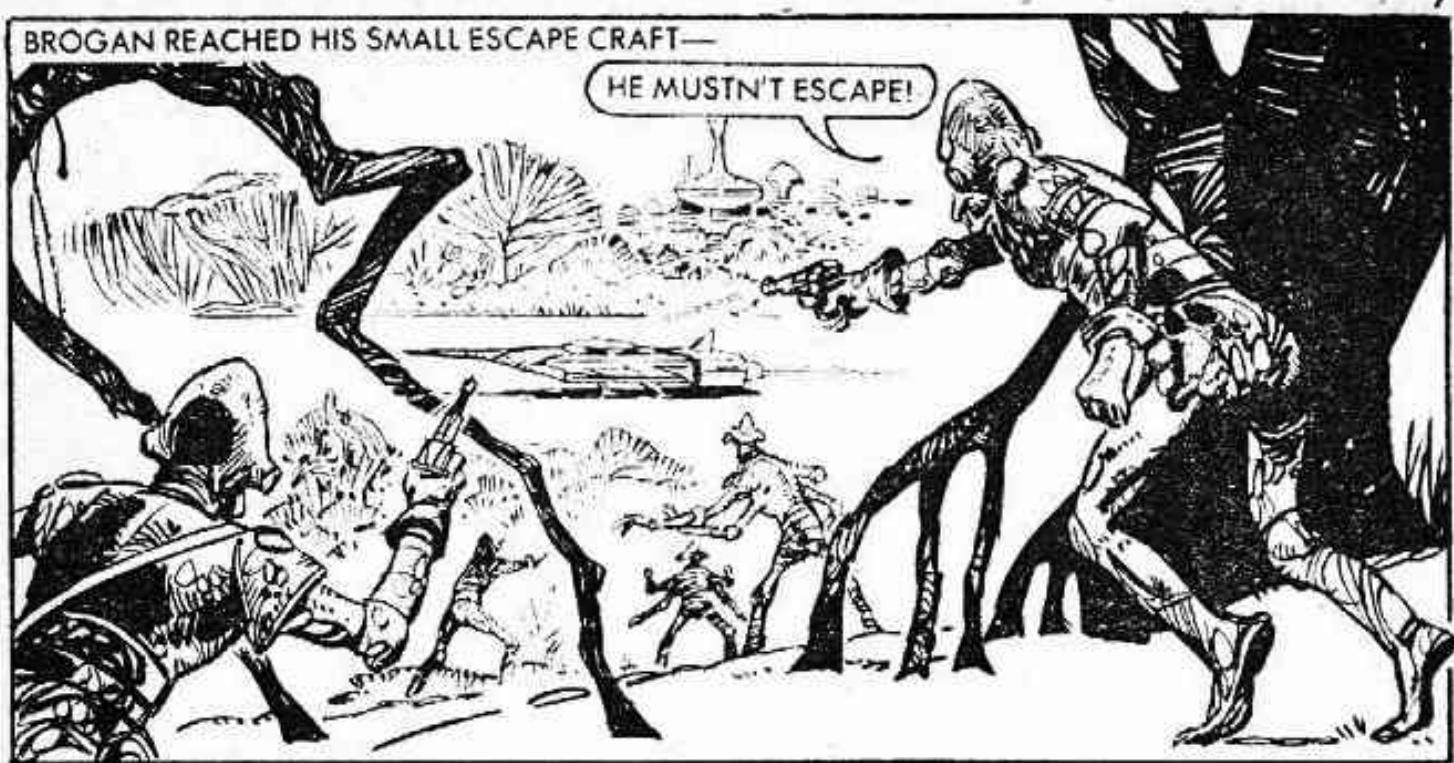


BROGAN BLASTED HIS WAY OUT AND MADE FOR HIS CONCEALED SHIP.



BROGAN REACHED HIS SMALL ESCAPE CRAFT—

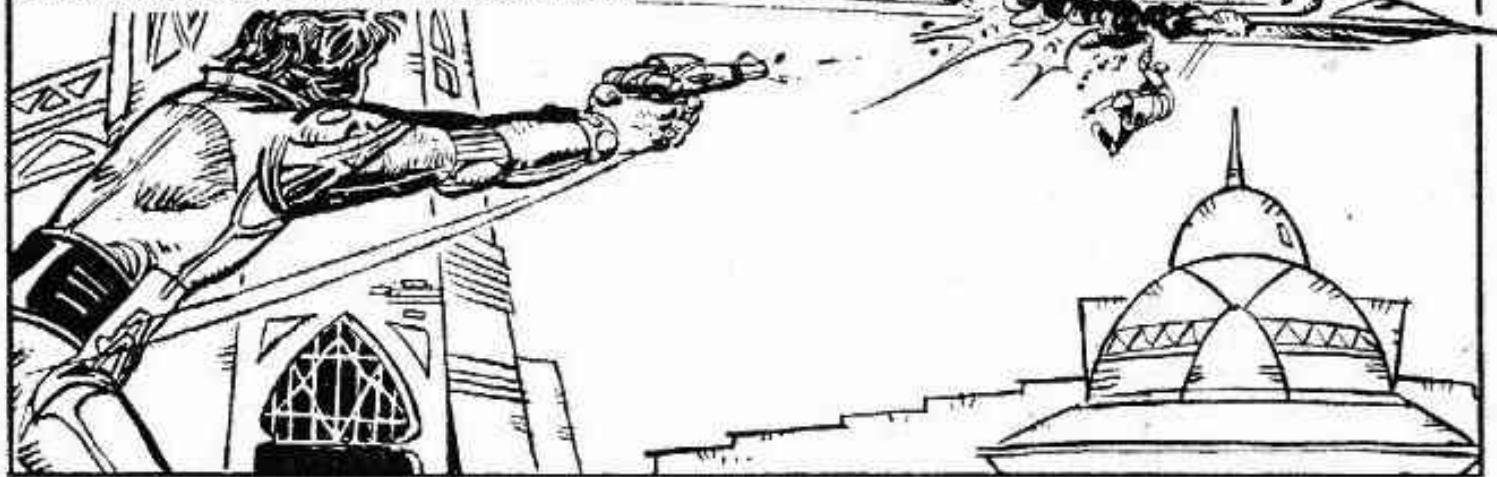
HE MUSTN'T ESCAPE!



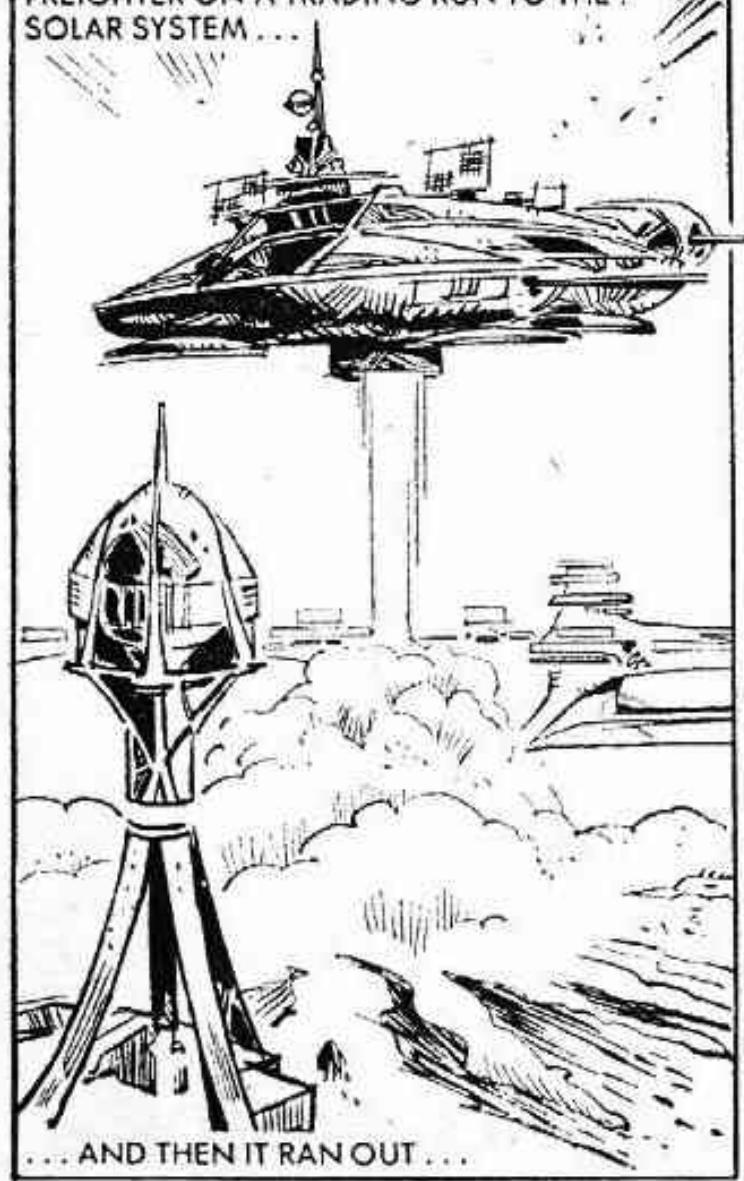
BUT BROGAN DID ESCAPE, AND FOR MONTHS HOPPED FROM PLANET TO PLANET. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE SWITCHED SHIPS OR LAID LOW ON A NEUTRAL WORLD, THEY ALWAYS SEEMED TO FIND HIM AGAIN ...



... NO MATTER HOW MANY TIGHT CORNERS HE MANAGED TO FIGHT HIS WAY OUT OF, THERE WERE ALWAYS MORE SHAPESHIFTERS TO HUNT HIM DOWN ...



BUT HIS LUCK HELD FIRM UNTIL HE WAS ABLE TO STOW AWAY ABOARD A NEUTRAL CARGO FREIGHTER ON A TRADING RUN TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM ...



THE SHAPESHIFTERS CAUGHT UP WITH THE FREIGHTER ONLY A COUPLE OF LIGHT YEARS OUTSIDE THE SOLAR SYSTEM .

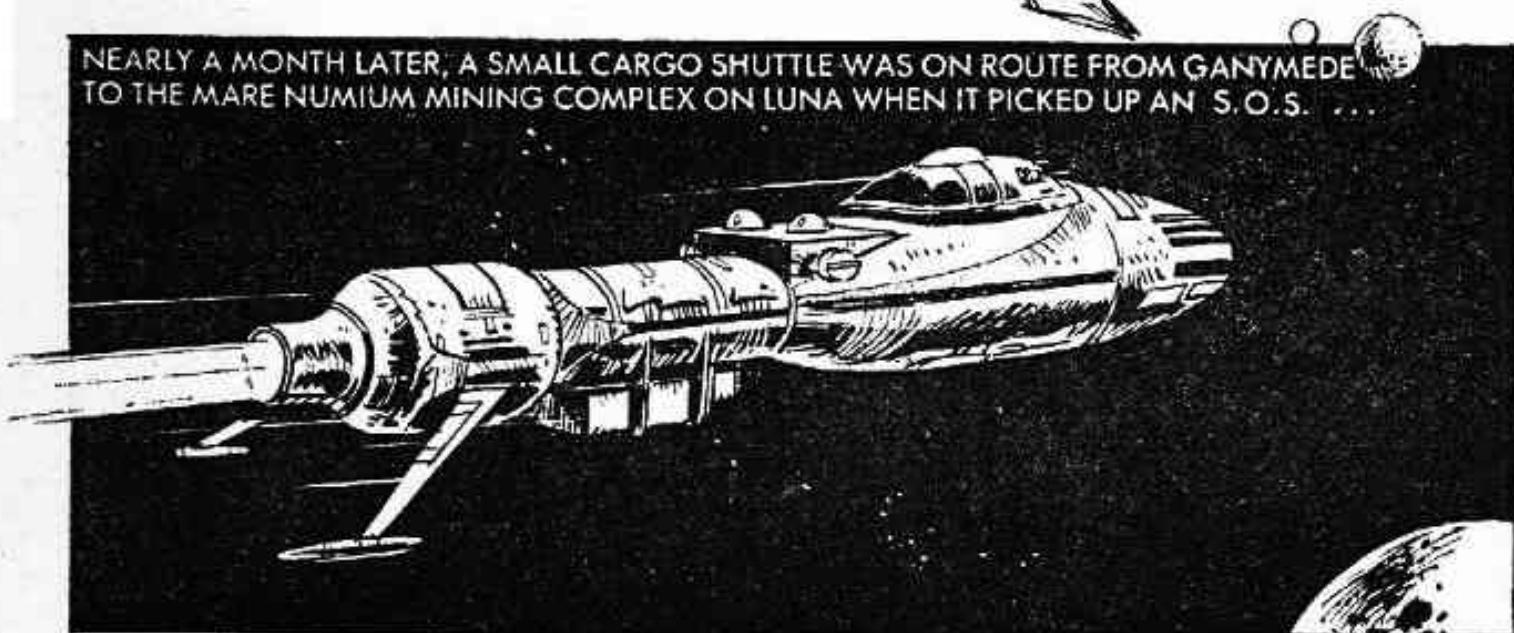


... AND THEN IT RAN OUT ...

THAT TAKES CARE OF THE HUMAN!  
GOTTARRA'S PLAN IS A SECRET AGAIN!



NEARLY A MONTH LATER, A SMALL CARGO SHUTTLE WAS ON ROUTE FROM GANYMEDE TO THE MARE NUMIUM MINING COMPLEX ON LUNA WHEN IT PICKED UP AN S.O.S. . . .



JOHN LEIGH, THE CARGO SHUTTLE'S YOUNG SURVEILLANCE OFFICER, QUICKLY SUMMED UP THE SITUATION —

THE SIGNAL IS VERY WEAK, BUT IT'S COMING FROM CLOSE BY, SIR. SENSORS INDICATE IT'S A LIFEPOD — ONE LIFE READING, AND IT'S HUMAN!



COMMANDER ADAMSON GAVE THE ORDER FOR THE LIFEPOD TO BE SECURED AND BROUGHT INSIDE THE CARGO HOLD . . .

THE DAMAGE LOOKS PRETTY SEVERE. WINCH IT IN CAREFULLY, OR IT'LL BREAK UP!



MINUTES LATER, IN THE CARGO HOLD, THE CREW FORCED OPEN THE HATCH OF THE LIFEPOD ...



THEY FOUND BROGAN INSIDE THE POD. HE WAS DYING, BUT ABLE TO GASP ONE FINAL WARNING ...





NEW YORK HOUSES THE DEEP SPACE  
TRACKING STATION FOR THIS SECTOR OF  
THE SYSTEM. IF SOMETHING WENT  
WRONG THERE, WE'D BE BLIND TO A  
SHAPESHIFTER FLEET COMING IN! WE'D  
BETTER LOOK INTO THIS!

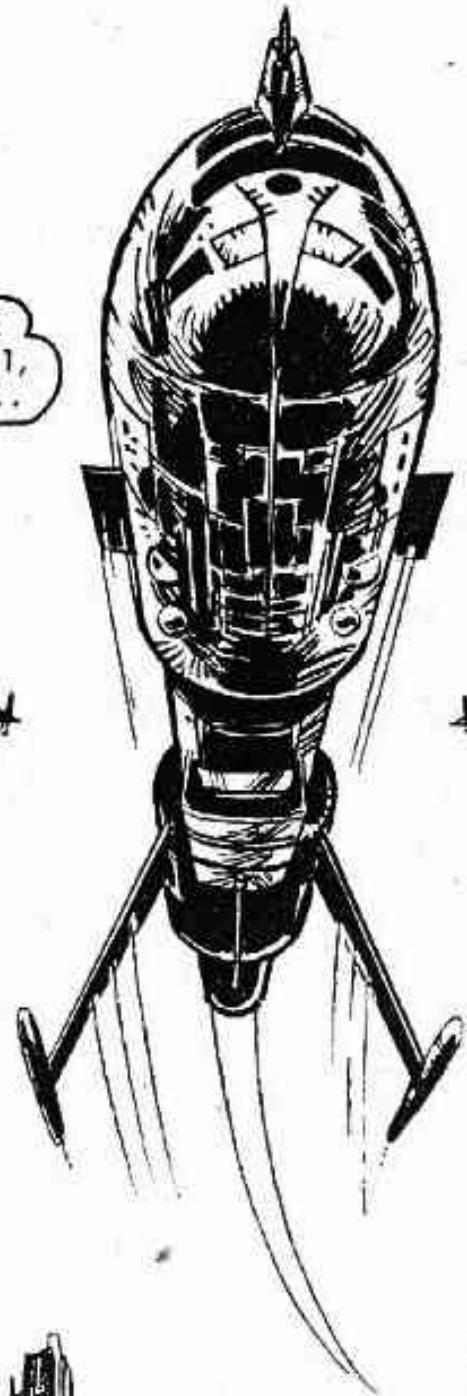
ADAMSON SWIFTLY DECIDED TO DIVERT TO EARTH . . .



CALLING NEW YORK CONTROL . . . THIS  
IS CARGO SHUTTLE TPD21 REQUESTING  
PERMISSION TO LAND ON PRIORITY ONE,  
OVER . . .

THE CARGO SHUTTLE WAS JOINED BY TWO FIGHTERS OVER MANHATTAN . . .

SCAN COMPLETED. YOU'RE  
CLEAN. FOLLOW US IN, TPD21,  
THE FORCE FIELD'S DOWN . . .



AFTER LANDING,  
ADAMSON  
EXPLAINED  
WHAT HAD  
HAPPENED —



I DON'T SEE HOW THE  
SHAPESHIFTERS COULD EVER HOPE  
TO ATTACK US HERE. THIS STATION  
IS IMPREGNABLE!

NEITHER DO I . . . BUT  
THAT WAS THE WARNING.



EVEN IF SOME MADE IT THROUGH, THE  
STATION IS STILL PROTECTED. A FORCE  
SHIELD WHICH COMPLETELY COVERS US  
FROM A THOUSAND FEET UP ALSO  
EXTENDS TO THE FLOOR OF THE BAY.

THE COMMANDER ESCORTED THEM BACK TO THEIR CRAFT.



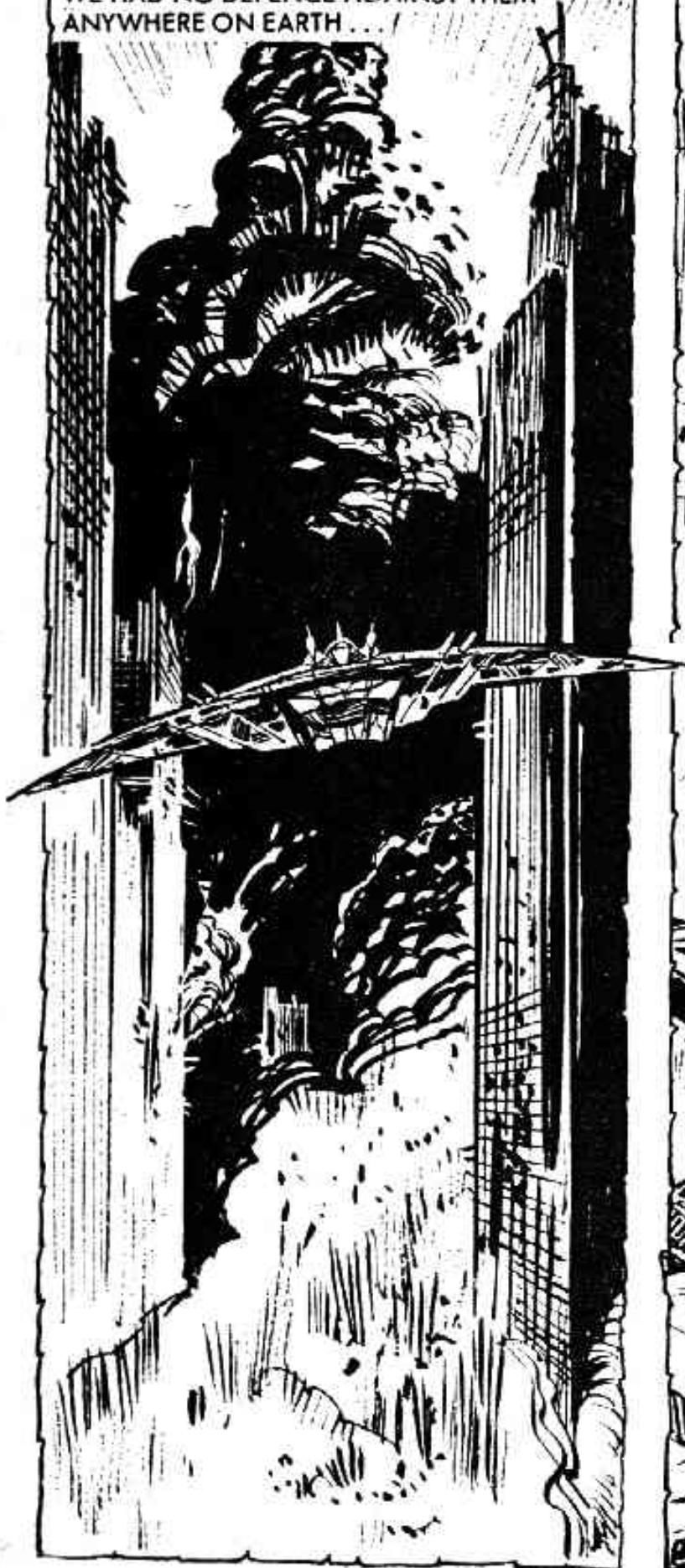
... SO WHEN THEY ATTACKED IN THE WINTER OF 2106, WE WEREN'T EXPECTING THEM. THEY CAUGHT ALMOST OUR ENTIRE DEFENCE FORCE ON THE GROUND AND ANNIHILATED IT.



AFTER THAT THEY WERE FREE TO STRIKE AT WILL. OUR CITIES WERE DEVASTATED ...



WE HAD NO DEFENCE AGAINST THEM  
ANYWHERE ON EARTH...



THE ATTACK LASTED A WEEK, AND LEFT  
HALF THE WORLD RADIATION-SATURATED  
WASTELANDS...



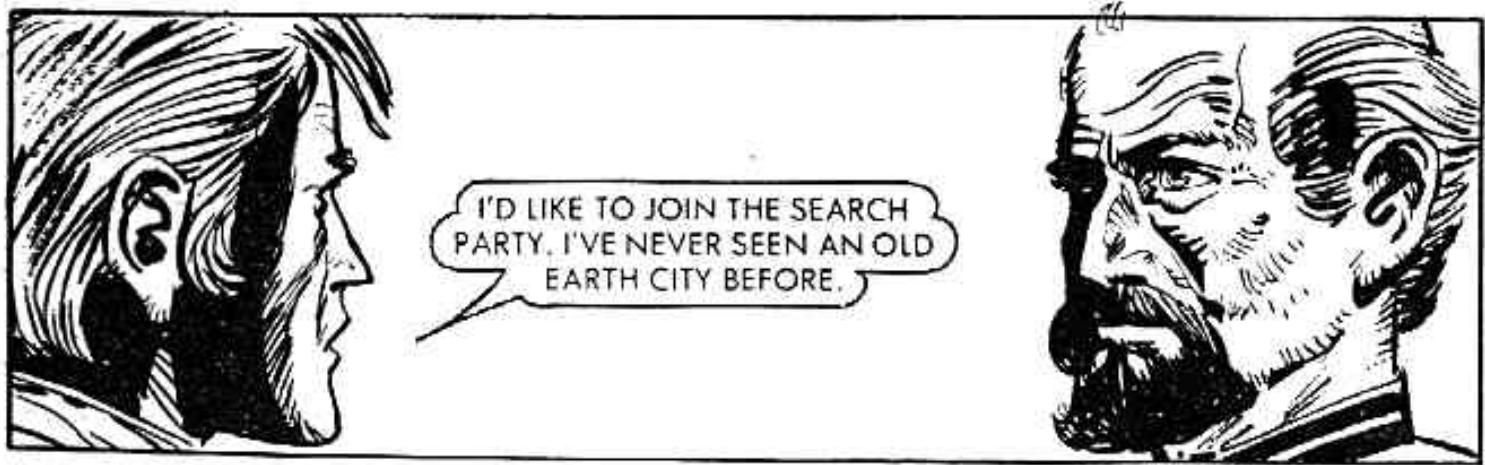
BUT THEY MADE THE MISTAKE OF  
IGNORING OUR COLONIES ON  
LUNA, MARS, AND THE MOONS  
OF JUPITER AND SATURN . . .



WITH THE EXPLANATION OVER, COMMANDER  
ADAMSON'S MEN WERE DISMISSED —

IF THEY EVER TRIED TO SNEAK IN AGAIN, THIS  
STATION WOULD ALERT OUR FLEET. THEY  
WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE OF EVER  
REACHING THE COLONIES.







MINUTES LATER, THE FORCE SHIELD WAS LOWERED AND THE SEARCH PARTY SET OUT PAST THE STATUE OF LIBERTY AND ACROSS THE BAY...

THE AIR-CAR DESCENDED INTO WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN MID-TOWN MANHATTAN.



CORPORAL SCOTT VANISHED  
SOMEWHERE IN THIS AREA.

THE TROOPS DISEMBARKED . . .



THESE RUINS ARE ALIVE WITH PACKS OF MUTATED DOGS! THEY'RE RABID AND SATURATED WITH RADIATION!



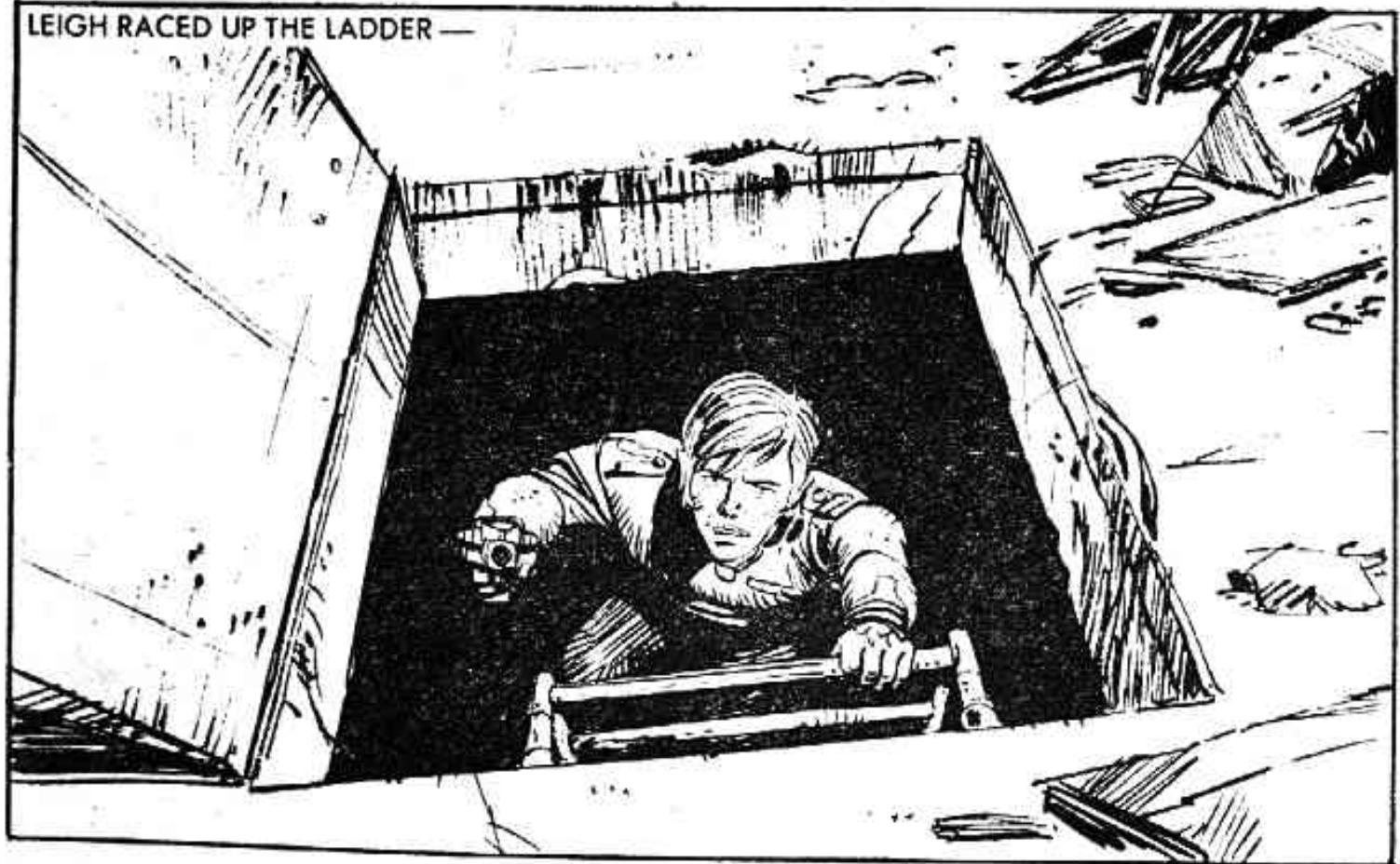
LEIGH AND THE SERGEANT CROSSED THE STREET  
TO SEARCH WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN AN EXCLUSIVE  
DEPARTMENT STORE . . .



LEIGH CLIMBED UP TO THE TOP FLOOR WHERE  
HE CAUGHT SIGHT OF A FIGURE ON THE  
TOP RUNG OF A MAINTENANCE LADDER —



LEIGH RACED UP THE LADDER —





THE SERGEANT OFFERED THE CREATURE SOME CHOCOLATE. IT SNATCHED IT EAGERLY ...









THE AIR-CAR RETURNED TO THE TRACKING STATION...



LATER, AS ADAMSON AND LEIGH RAN THROUGH SOME PRE-FLIGHT CHECKS ON BOARD THEIR CARGO SHUTTLE...



MEANWHILE, THE TRACKING STATION'S MISSING MAN WAS FLEEING IN DESPERATION THROUGH THE EERIE, RADIATION-LIT SEWERS BENEATH MANHATTAN...





BEFORE HE ESCAPED, HE HAD ALREADY TOLD US WHAT WE NEEDED TO KNOW. HE IS OF NO FURTHER USE. KILL HIM!



THE STRANGE FIGURE DEPARTED, LEAVING THE MUTANTS TO COMPLETE THEIR TASK.

AAAA....

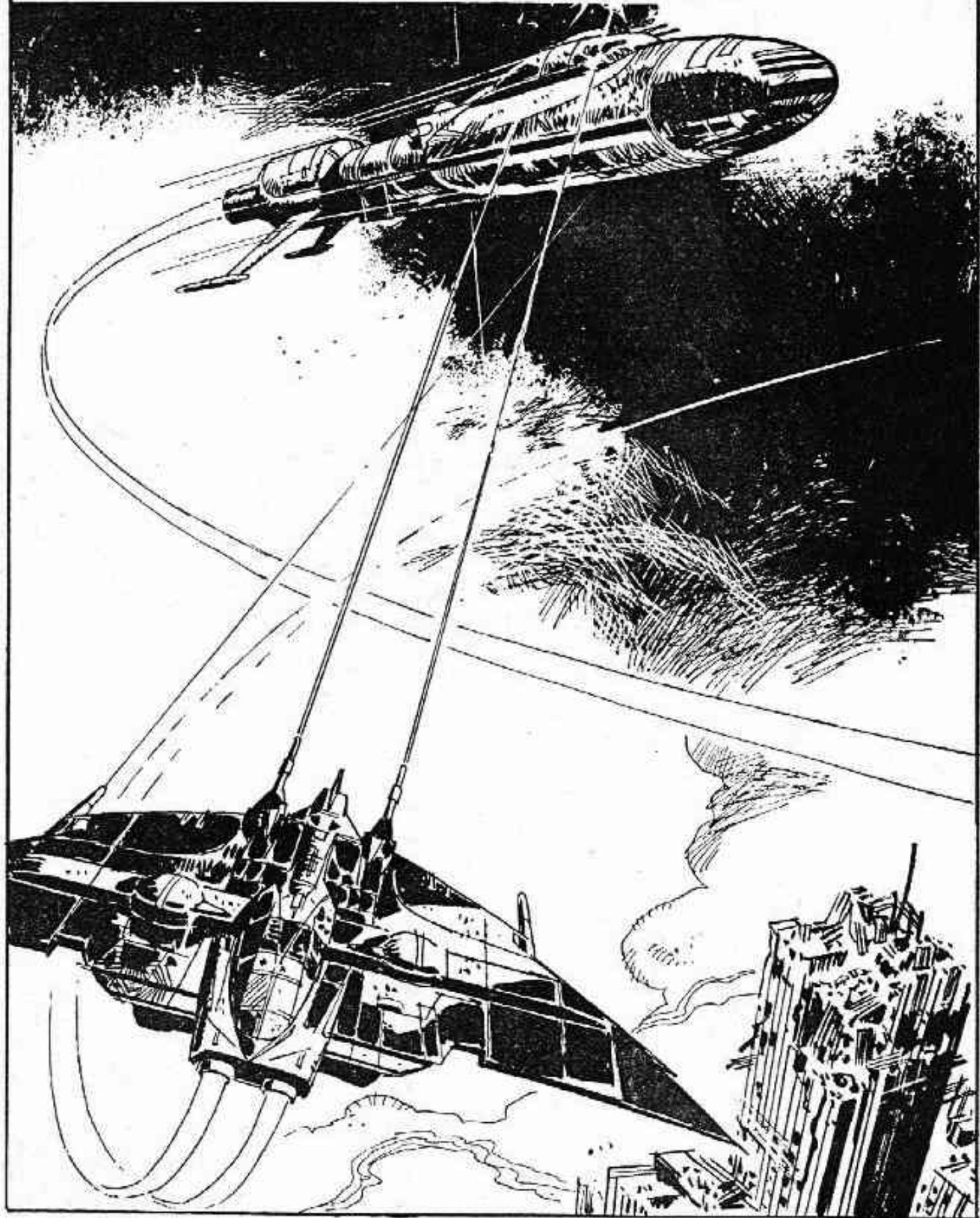




A FEW MOMENTS LATER, ADAMSON CAUGHT SIGHT OF SOMETHING METALLIC GLITTERING IN THE SUNLIGHT, WEAVING ITS WAY BETWEEN THE SKYSCRAPERS BELOW.

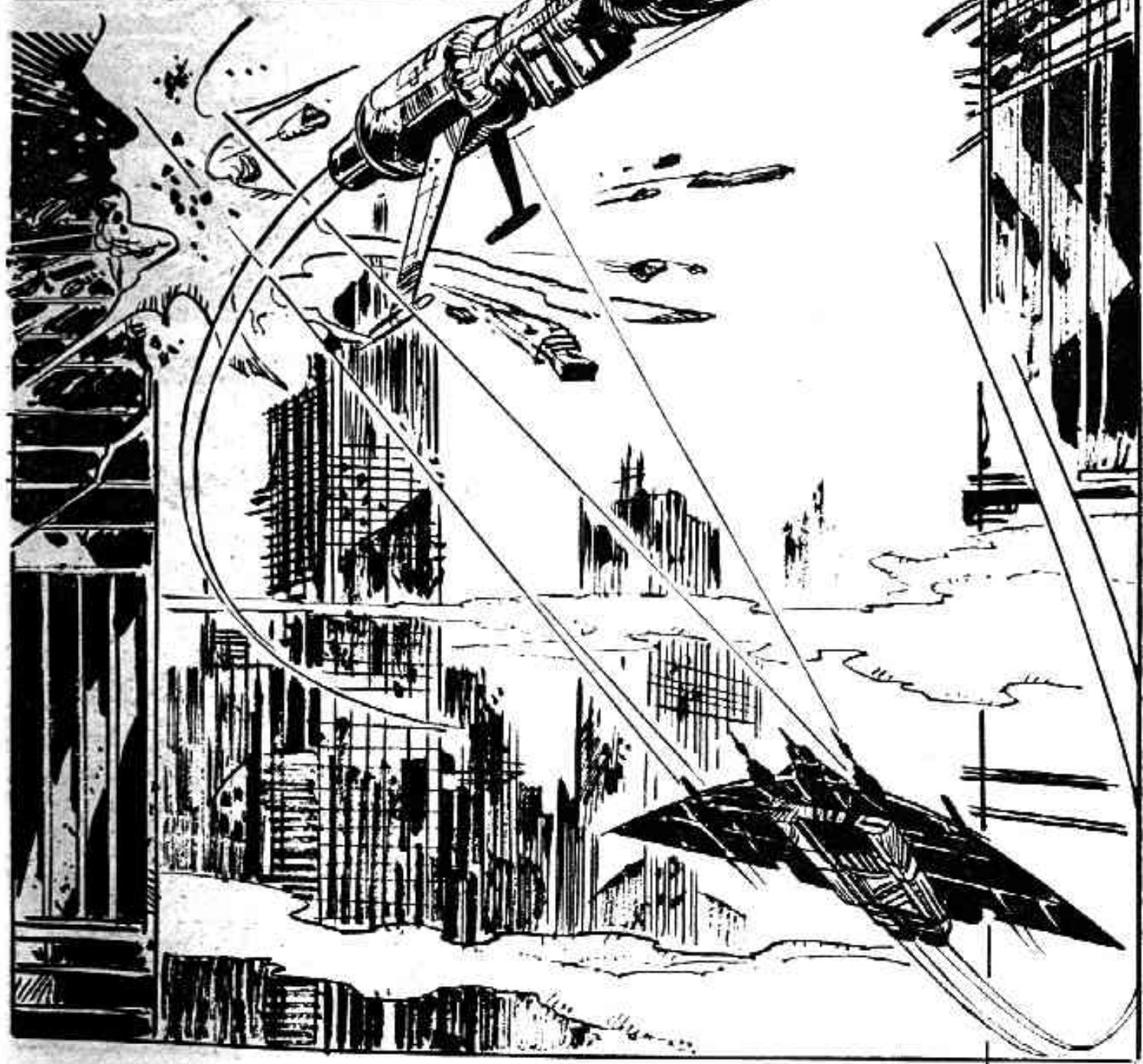


BOLTS OF ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE DESTRUCTIVE POWER RIPPED CLOSE BY AS ADAMSON FLUNG THE SHUTTLE ASIDE IN A DESPERATE, LAST SECOND MANOEUVRE!





THE SURGE OF SPEED TOOK  
THE SHUTTLE OUT OF THE LINE  
OF FIRE.

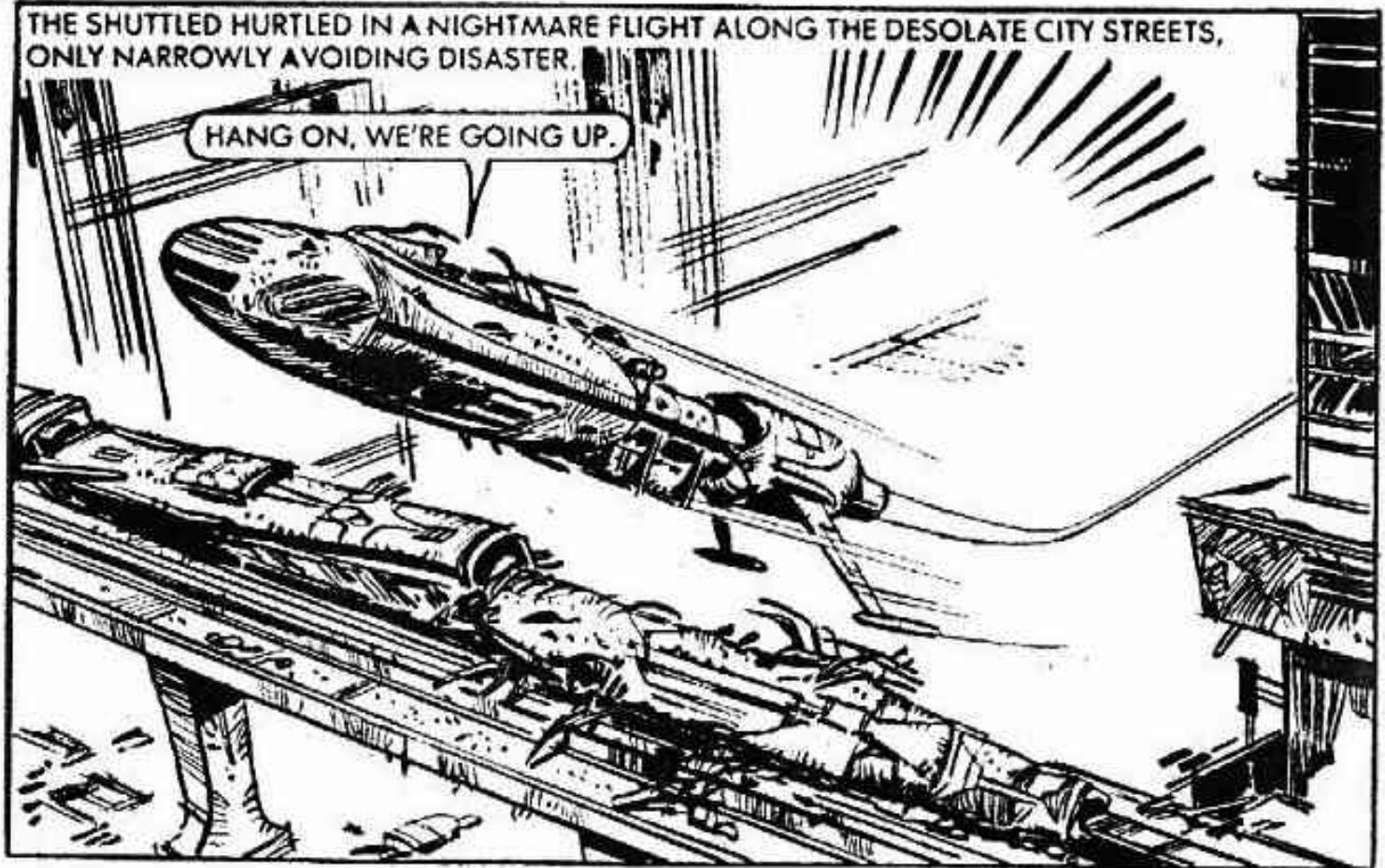


HANG ON! I'M GOING TO TRY  
AND SHAKE HIM OFF WITH A POWER DRIVE!

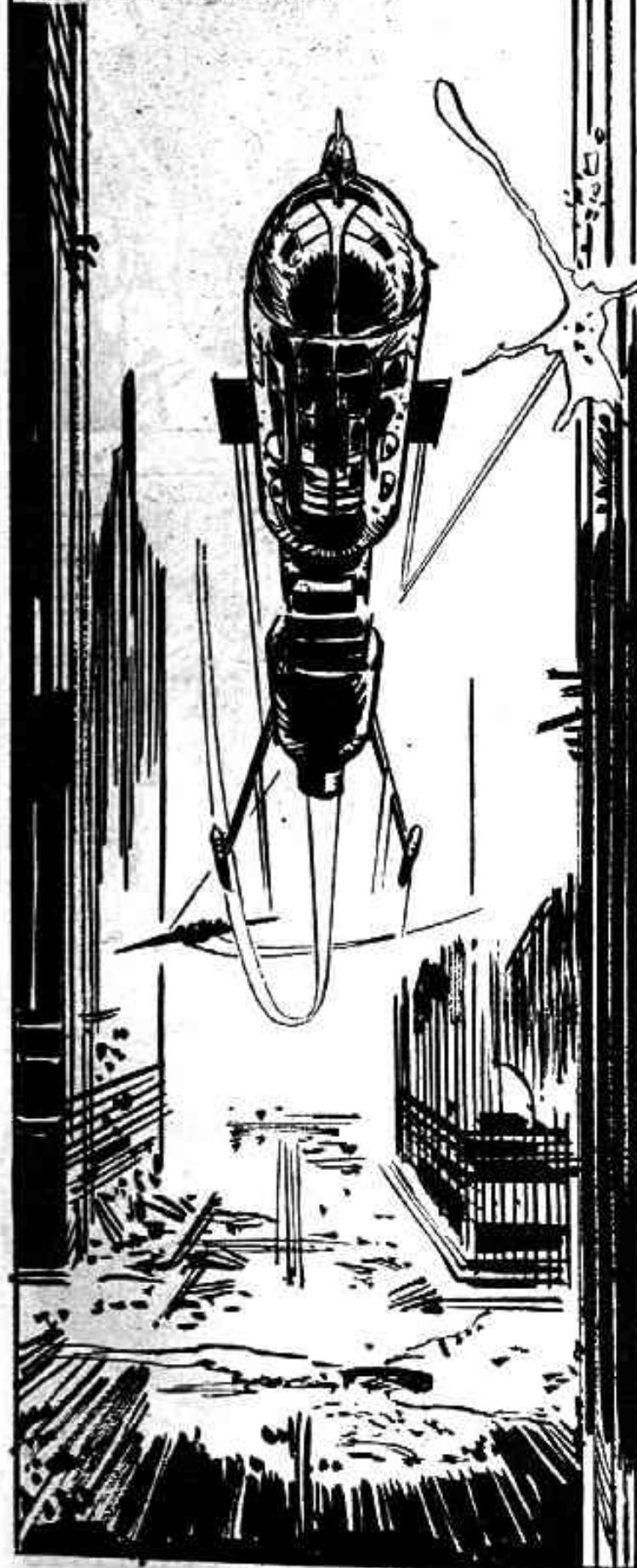
THE SHUTTLE DROPPED STILL LOWER, SKIMMING ALONG WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN BROADWAY.



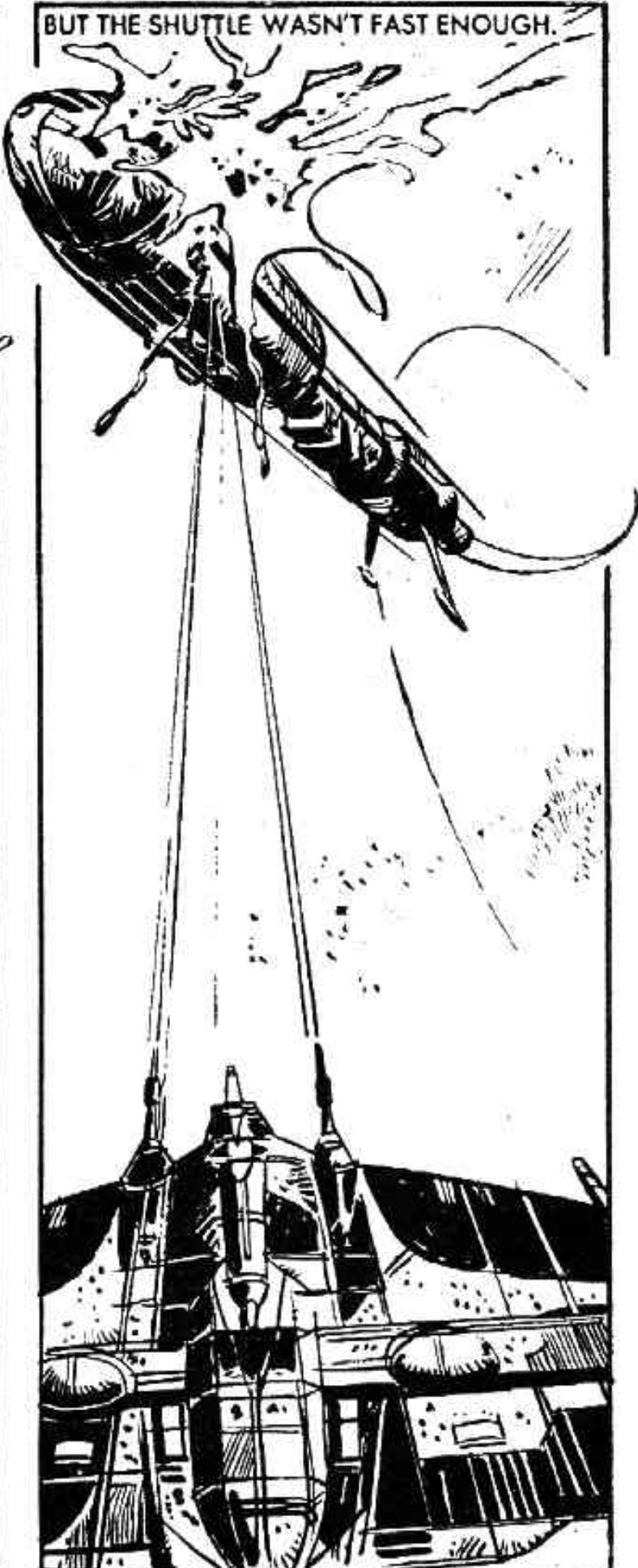
THE SHUTTLE HURTLED IN A NIGHTMARE FLIGHT ALONG THE DESOLATE CITY STREETS, ONLY NARROWLY AVOIDING DISASTER.



ADAMSON SWUNG THE SHUTTLE ROUND AND ACCELERATED UPWARD.



BUT THE SHUTTLE WASN'T FAST ENOUGH.





THE STRICKEN CARGO SHUTTLE PLUNGED EARTHWARDS, WITH ADAMSON STRUGGLING AT THE CONTROLS. HE SUCCEEDED IN PULLING OUT OF THE DIVE AT THE LAST SECOND.



THE DAZED SURVIVORS SCRAMBLED OUT OF THE WRECK ...



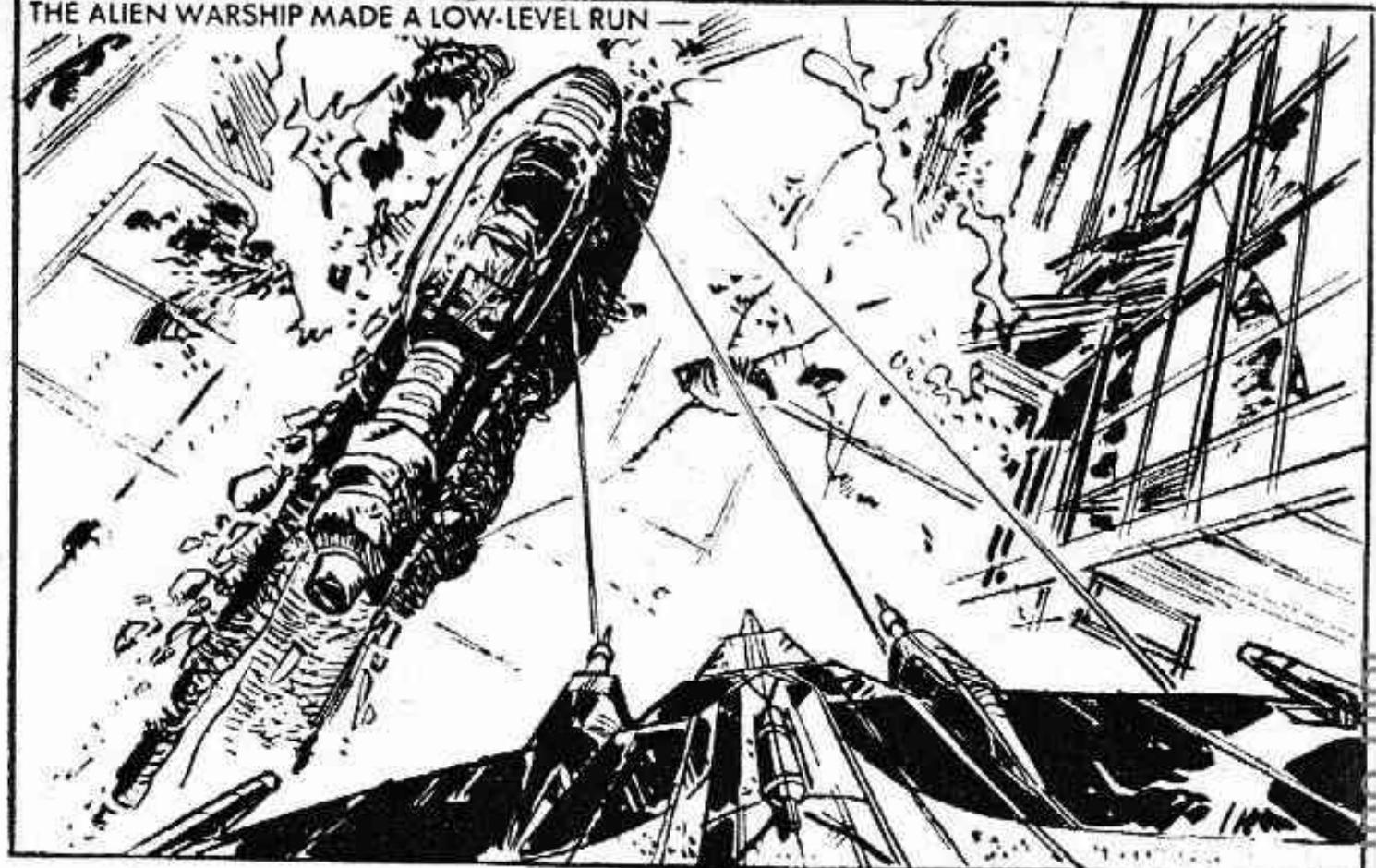
THE SHUTTLE'S FINISHED.

FORGET THAT! WHERE'S  
THEIR WARSHIP?

GET DOWN! IT'S GOING  
TO FIRE AT US!



THE ALIEN WARSHIP MADE A LOW-LEVEL RUN —



MIRACULOUSLY, THE SHUTTLE CREW SURVIVED THE BOMBARDMENT, BUT ...



41  
THE SHUTTLE CREW RAN FOR THEIR LIVES AS THE WARSHIP ATTACKED AGAIN.



THEY BURST THROUGH THE ENTRANCE AND RACED DOWN INTO THE SUBWAY STATION . . .



THE SUBWAY ENTRANCE TOOK A DIRECT HIT, TRAPPING THEM UNDERGROUND —



AS IT SWEPT ROUND FOR ANOTHER ATTACK, THE SHAPESHIFTER'S CRAFT WAS CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE —





THE SHUTTLE CREW DESCENDED DEEP INTO THE DERELICT STATION, WHICH WAS LIT BY AN EERIE GROUND MIST . . .



BUT IN THE ACCESS TUNNEL LEADING TO THE PLATFORMS.

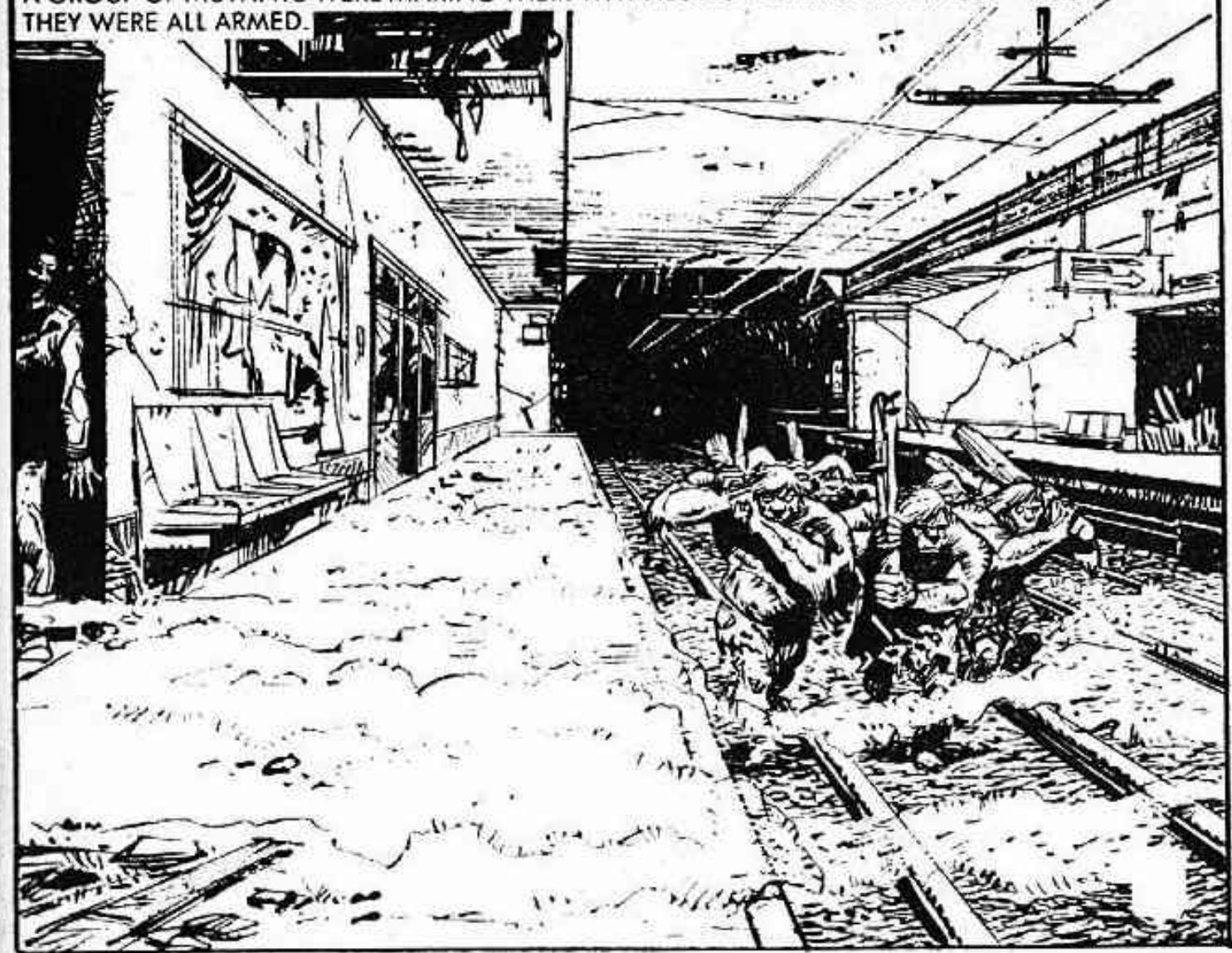


ADAMSON CREEP TO THE END OF THE ACCESS TUNNEL —



LEIGH, GET UP HERE!

A GROUP OF MUTANTS WERE MAKING THEIR WAY ALONG THE RAILWAY LINES — AND THEY WERE ALL ARMED.



THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO  
BEHAVE LIKE THIS! SOMETHING'S GOING ON!



WE'LL FOLLOW THEM. MAYBE  
THEY KNOW A WAY OUT.

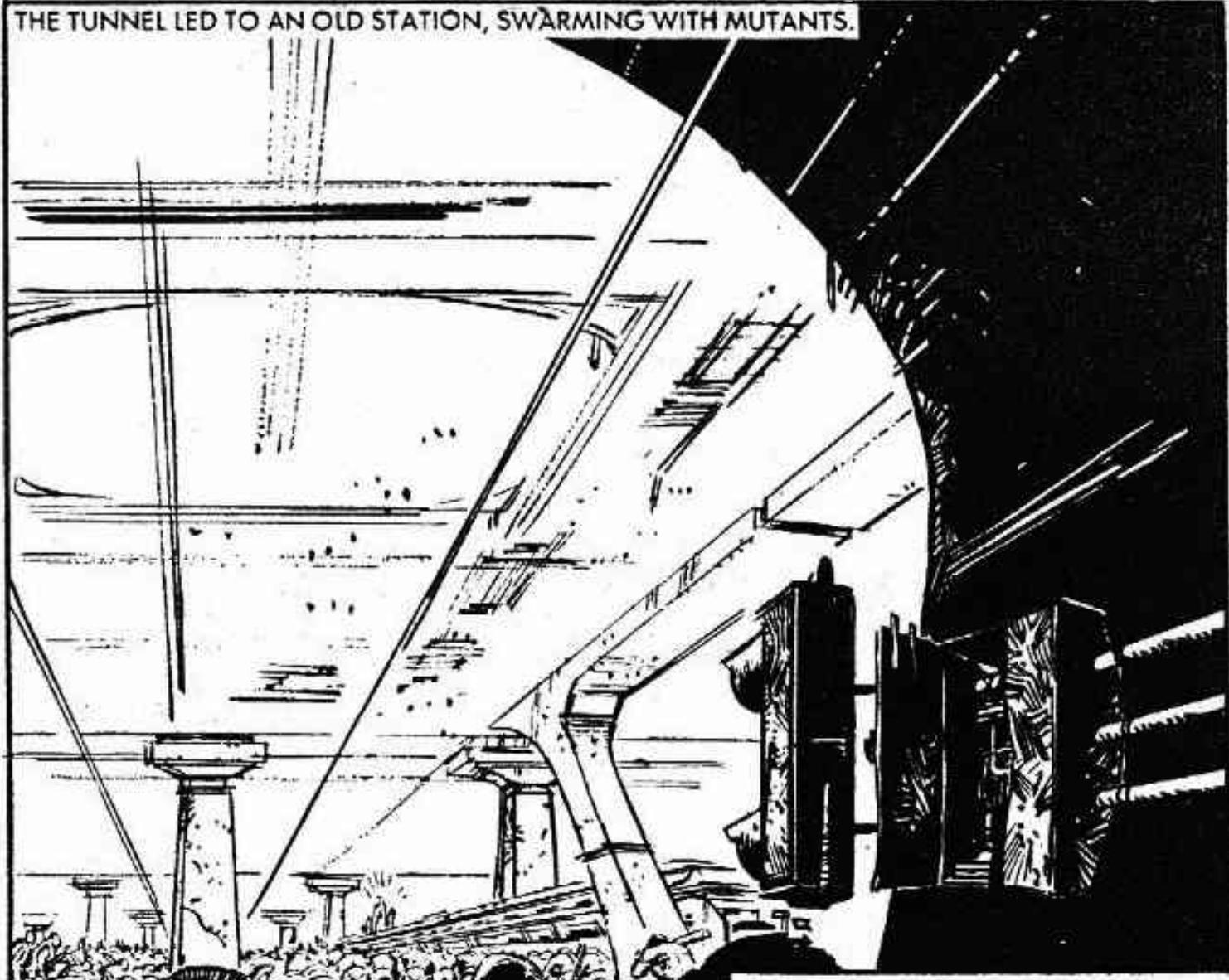


THE SHUTTLE CREW DROPPED DOWN ON TO THE TRACKS BEHIND THE MUTANTS AND  
FOLLOWED THEM AT A SAFE DISTANCE.

LOOK! THERE'S A  
LIGHT UP AHEAD!



THE TUNNEL LED TO AN OLD STATION, SWARMING WITH MUTANTS.





A SHAPESHIFTER IN THE FORM OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY! THEY MUST HAVE FOUND OUT THAT THE MUTANTS WORSHIPPED HER AS A GODDESS, AND USED THAT TO ORGANISE THEM AGAINST US.



YOUR BROTHERS INSIDE THE TRACKING STATION ARE NOW AWAITING MY CALL TO DESTROY THE FORCE FIELD . . . ONCE THE SHIELD IS ELIMINATED, I COMMAND YOU TO STORM THE TRACKING STATION AND SLAUGHTER EVERYONE YOU FIND THERE!

THE SHUTTLE CREW LISTENED IN HORROR TO THE SHAPESHIFTERS' PLAN. THEN . . . SOME SIXTH SENSE MADE ADAMSON LOOK BEHIND HIM.



THIS IS INCREDIBLE! WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE TRACKING STATION AND WARN THEM!

LEIGH, LOOK OUT!  
BEHIND YOU!

LEIGH SPUN ROUND—



LEIGH FIRED IN THE DARKNESS —



WE'LL NEVER  
OUTRUN THEM!

THE SHUTTLE CREW RAN FOR THEIR LIVES,  
THE MUTANTS BAYING CLOSE BEHIND.



USE YOUR BLASTERS!

BACK IN THE SUBWAY STATION ...

FIRST THE HUMANS DESTROY OUR  
WARSHIP AND NOW THIS! WE DARE  
NOT DELAY ANY LONGER. OUR FLEET  
IS ALREADY UNDERWAY, SO THE  
ATTACK GOES AHEAD — NOW!  
PREPARE THE HOLOGRAPHIC  
PROJECTOR!



MOMENTS LATER, A CHILLING HOLOGRAPHIC SPECTRE HUNG OVER THE SKYLINE ...

ATTACK! KILL THE HUMANS!  
YOUR GODDESS COMMANDS IT!



ALMOST AS ONE THE MUTANTS REACTED — THEY HURLED MASSIVE CHUNKS OF CONCRETE FROM THE ROOFTOPS DOWN ONTO PATROLLING AIR-CARS ...



...FOOT PATROLS IN THE RUINED CITY WERE AMBUSHED AND OVERWHELMED...



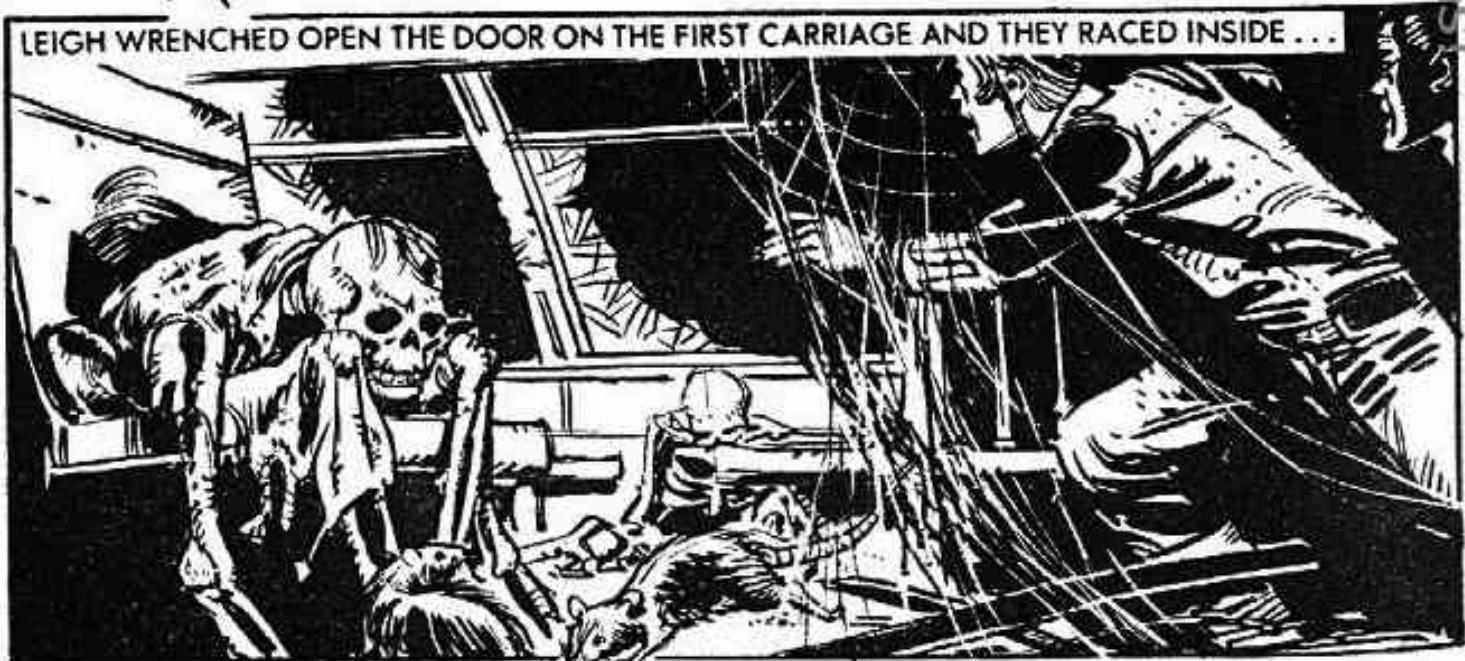
THE BATTLES WERE BRIEF AND SAVAGE...

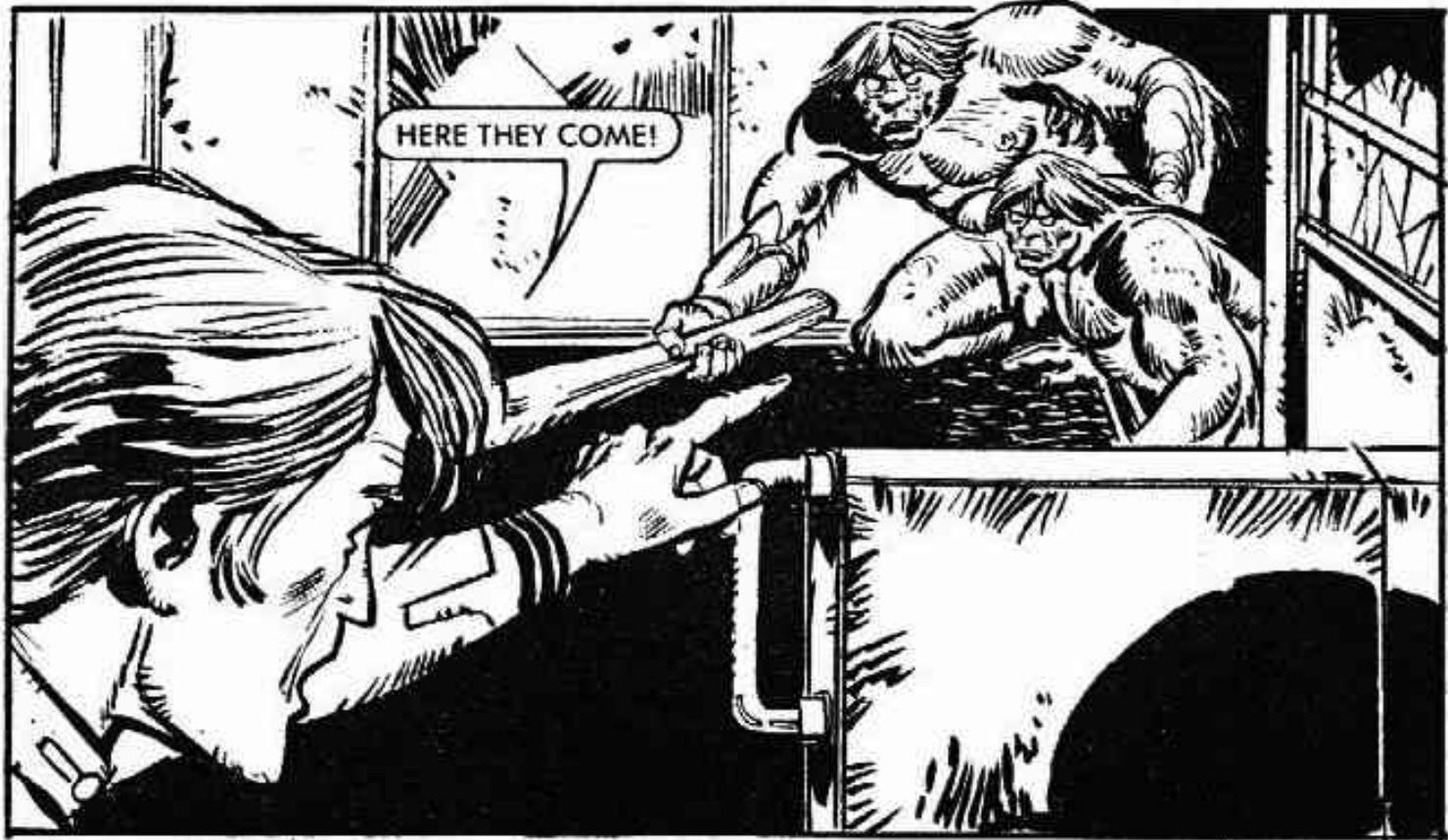


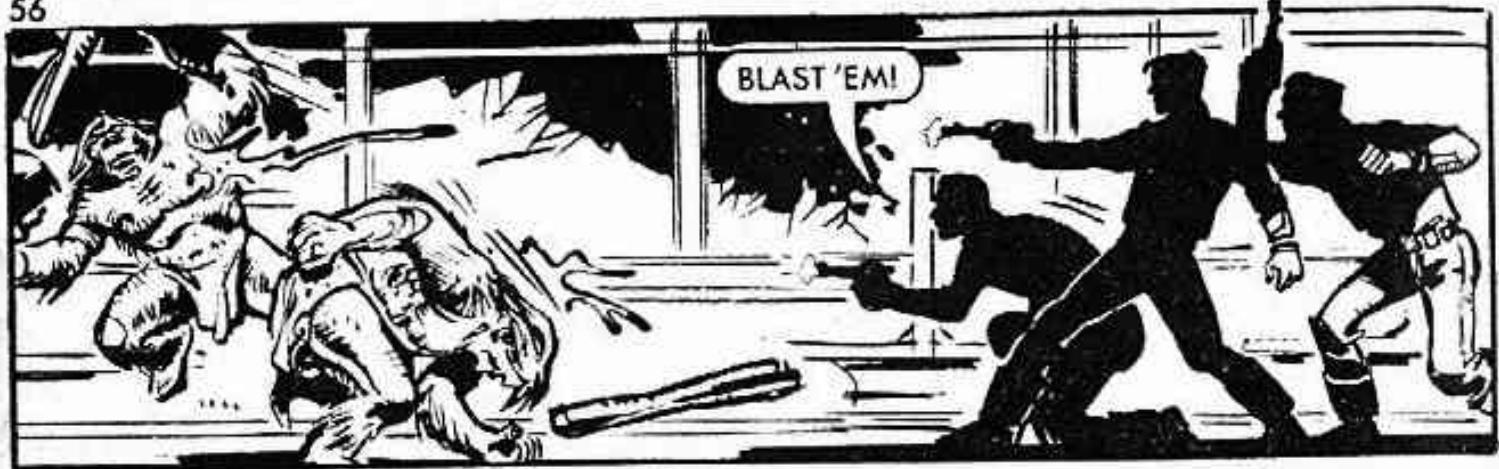
DEEP UNDERGROUND, THE SHUTTLE CREW WERE STILL FLEEING FROM THE MUTANT Hordes ...



LEIGH WRENCHED OPEN THE DOOR ON THE FIRST CARRIAGE AND THEY RACED INSIDE ...







BUT WHILE THE SHUTTLE CREW WERE FIGHTING THEIR WAY BACK TO THE TRACKING STATION, THE SUPPOSEDLY 'HARMLESS' MUTANTS THERE HAD ALREADY STRUCK.



John Ottman/Starburst

WITH THE FORCE SHIELD KNOCKED OUT AND THE GIANT HOLOGRAM OF THEIR 'GODDESS' URGING THEM ON, NOTHING COULD STOP THE THOUSANDS OF MUTANTS STORMING THE TRACKING STATION KILLING AND DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH!



IN THE SUBWAY TUNNELS, THE MUTANTS HAD SLOWLY FORCED THE SHUTTLE'S CREW BACK THROUGH THE CARRIAGES ...

THIS IS THE LAST CARRIAGE BEFORE THE ENGINE! WE'RE TRAPPED!

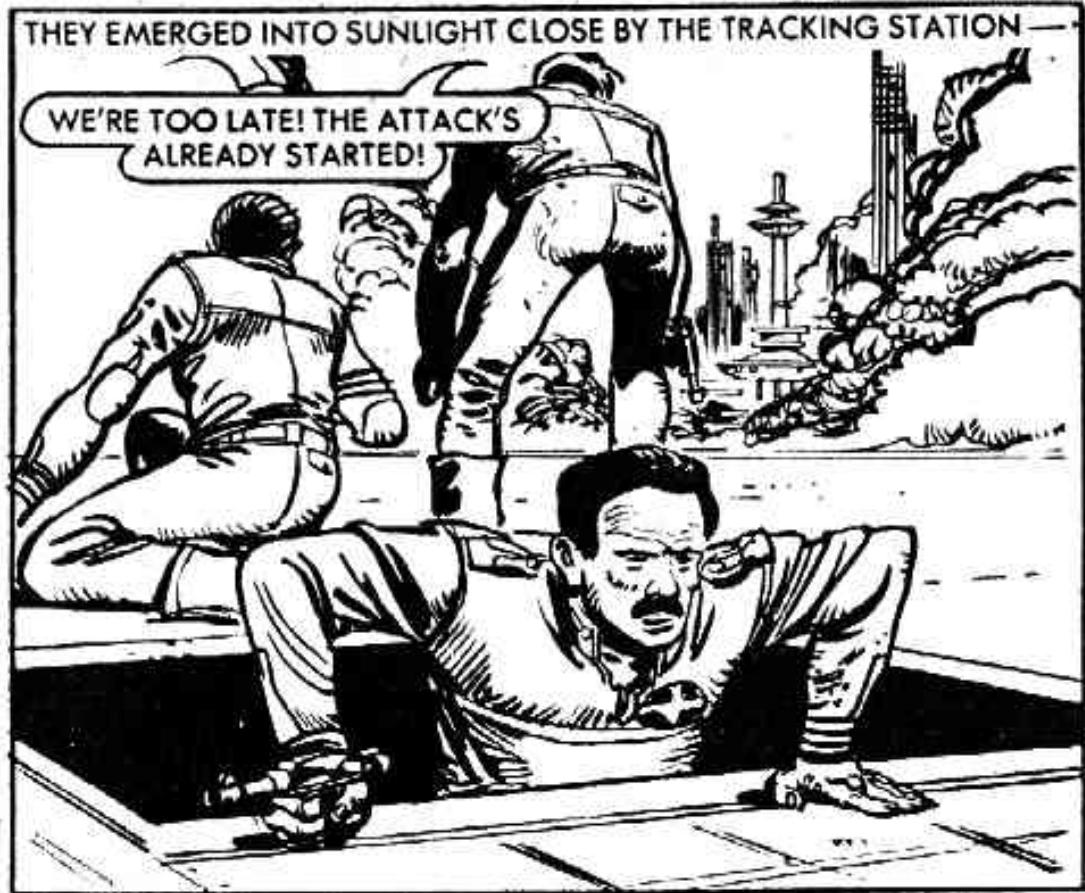
NO, LOOK—THERE'S SOME SORT OF SIDE TUNNEL OUTSIDE!



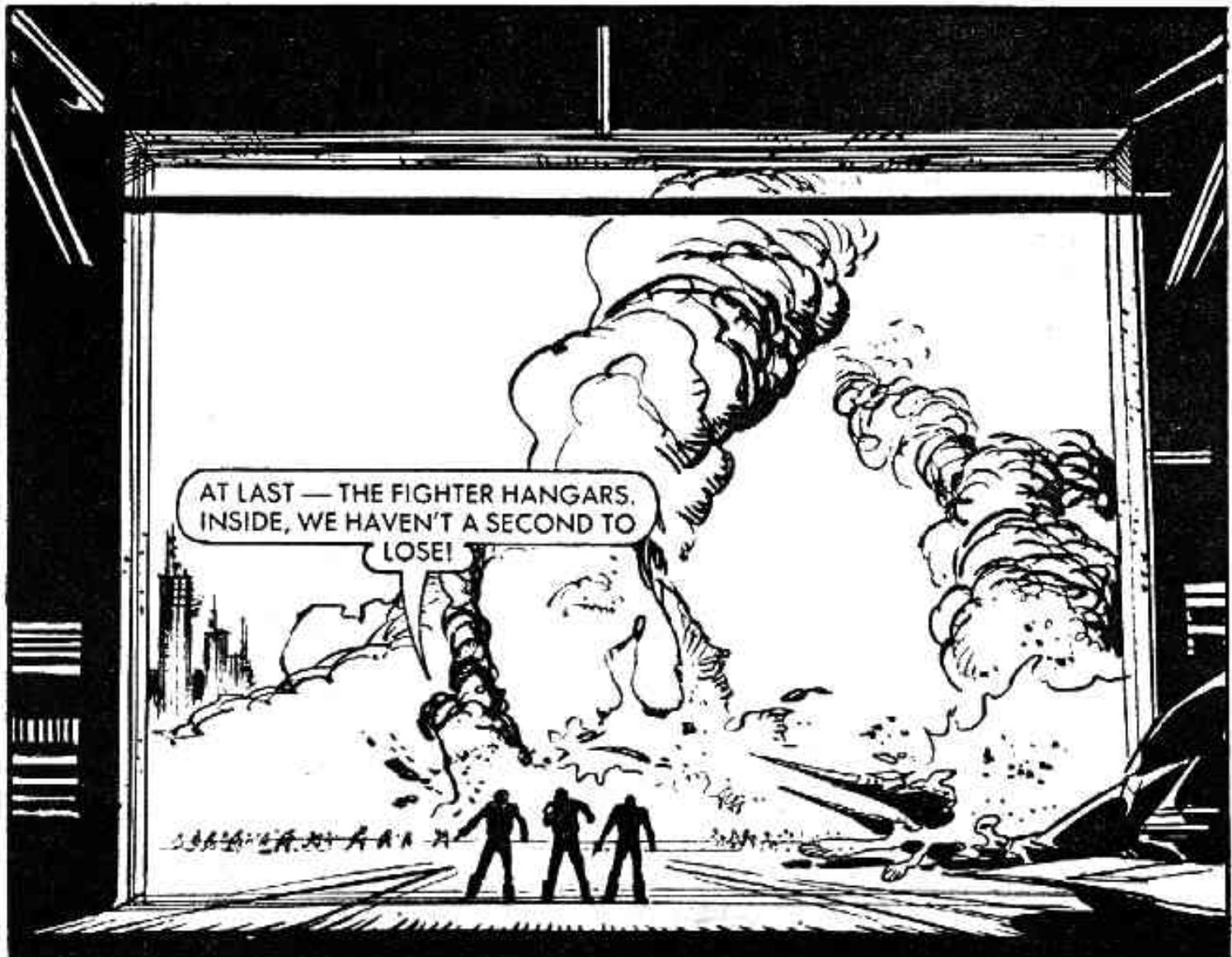
ADAMSON FORCED OPENED THE PASSENGER DOORS AND THEY JUMPED DOWN INTO THE TUNNEL AGAIN ...

IT'S AN OLD VENTILATION SHAFT. COME ON, LET'S GO!





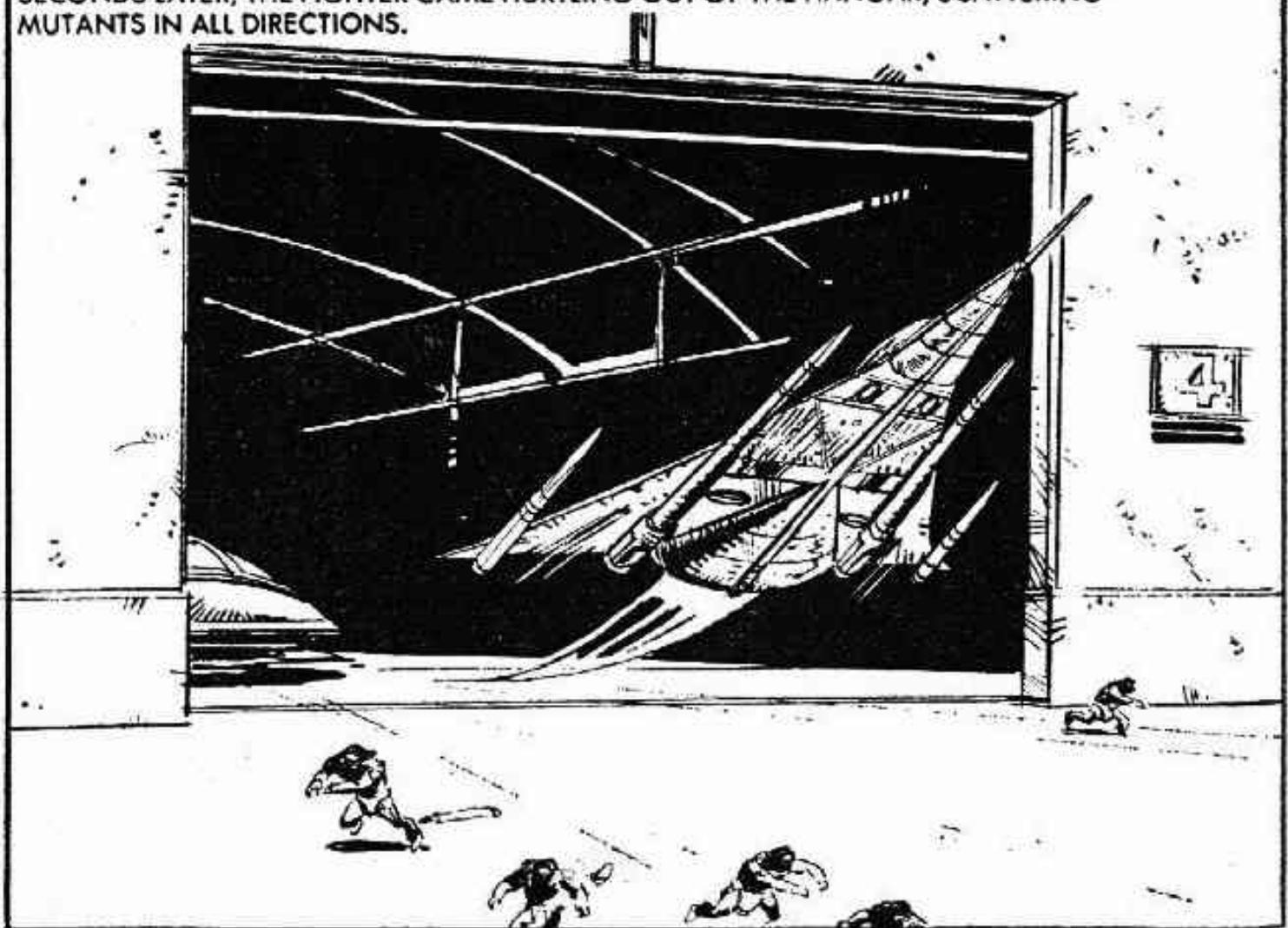




LEIGH CLIMBED ONTO A FIGHTER...



SECONDS LATER, THE FIGHTER CAME HURTLING OUT OF THE HANGAR, SCATTERING MUTANTS IN ALL DIRECTIONS.



LEIGH SWUNG THE FIGHTER ROUND IN A TIGHT ARC OVER LIBERTY ISLAND, AND BLASTED THE STATUE OF LIBERTY FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!



THE MUTANTS FLUNG AWAY THEIR WEAPONS AND FELL TO THEIR KNEES, WAILING IN HORROR —



WITH THE STATUE DESTROYED AND THE HOLOGRAPHIC SPECTRE OBSCURED BY DENSE SMOKE FROM THE RUBBLE, THEY LOST ALL WILL TO FIGHT.

ADAMSON FOUND THE STATION'S COMMANDER AND EXPLAINED WHAT HAD HAPPENED.



WITHOUT THE MUTANT Hordes TO DO THEIR FIGHTING, THE SHAPESHIFTERS IN THE SUBWAYS MEKKY SURRENDERED.



TWO DAYS LATER, LEIGH AND ADAMSON FOUND THEMSELVES ON THE COMMAND DECK OF THE FLAGSHIP 'IMPERIAL' —

THE SHAPESHIFTERS THINK THEY'LL CATCH US BY SURPRISE. THEY DON'T KNOW OUR TRACKING STATION IS STILL INTACT.

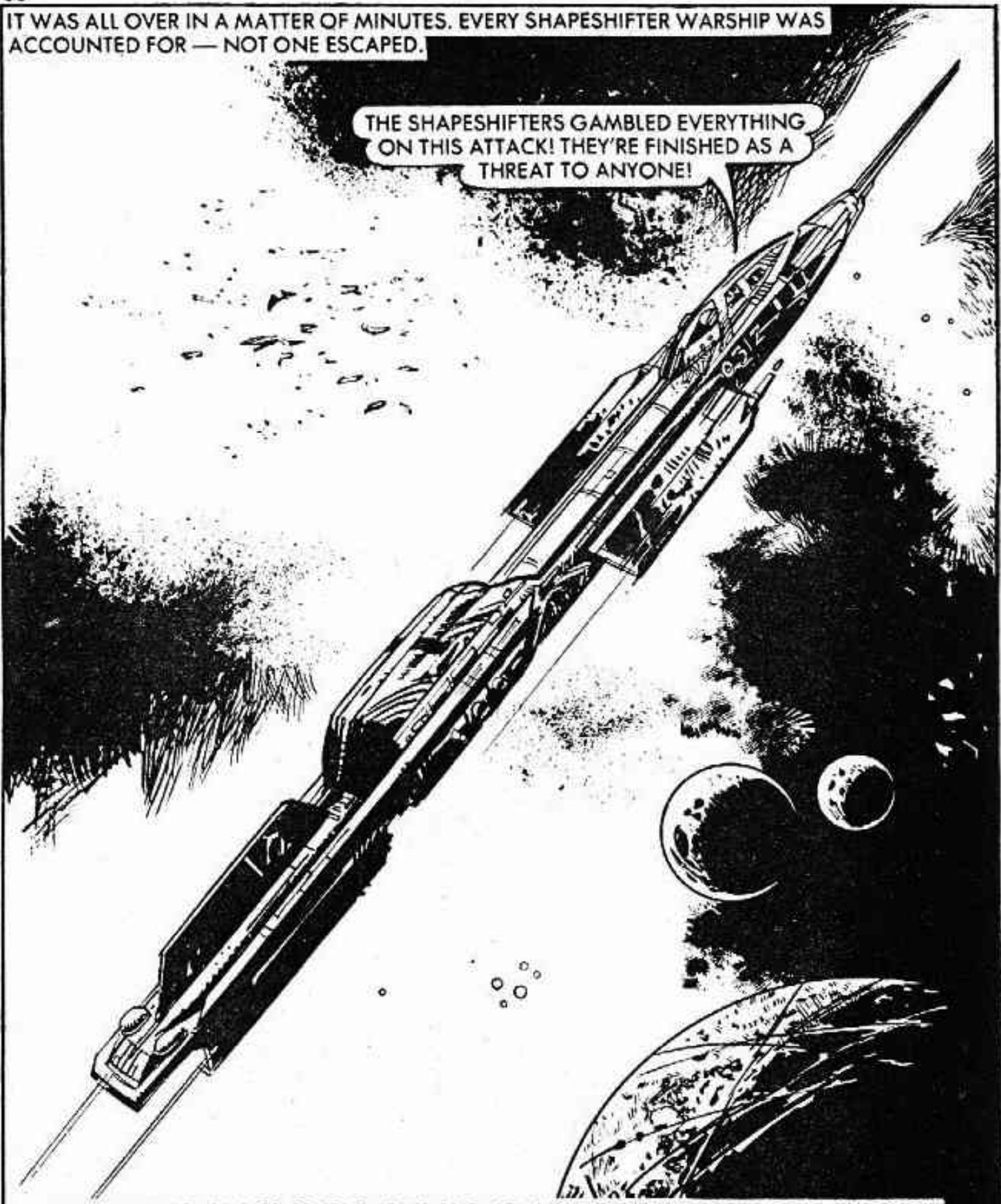


THE SPACESHIFTERS FLEW STRAIGHT INTO THE EARTH AMBUSH —



IT WAS ALL OVER IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. EVERY SHAPESHIFTER WARSHIP WAS ACCOUNTED FOR — NOT ONE ESCAPED.

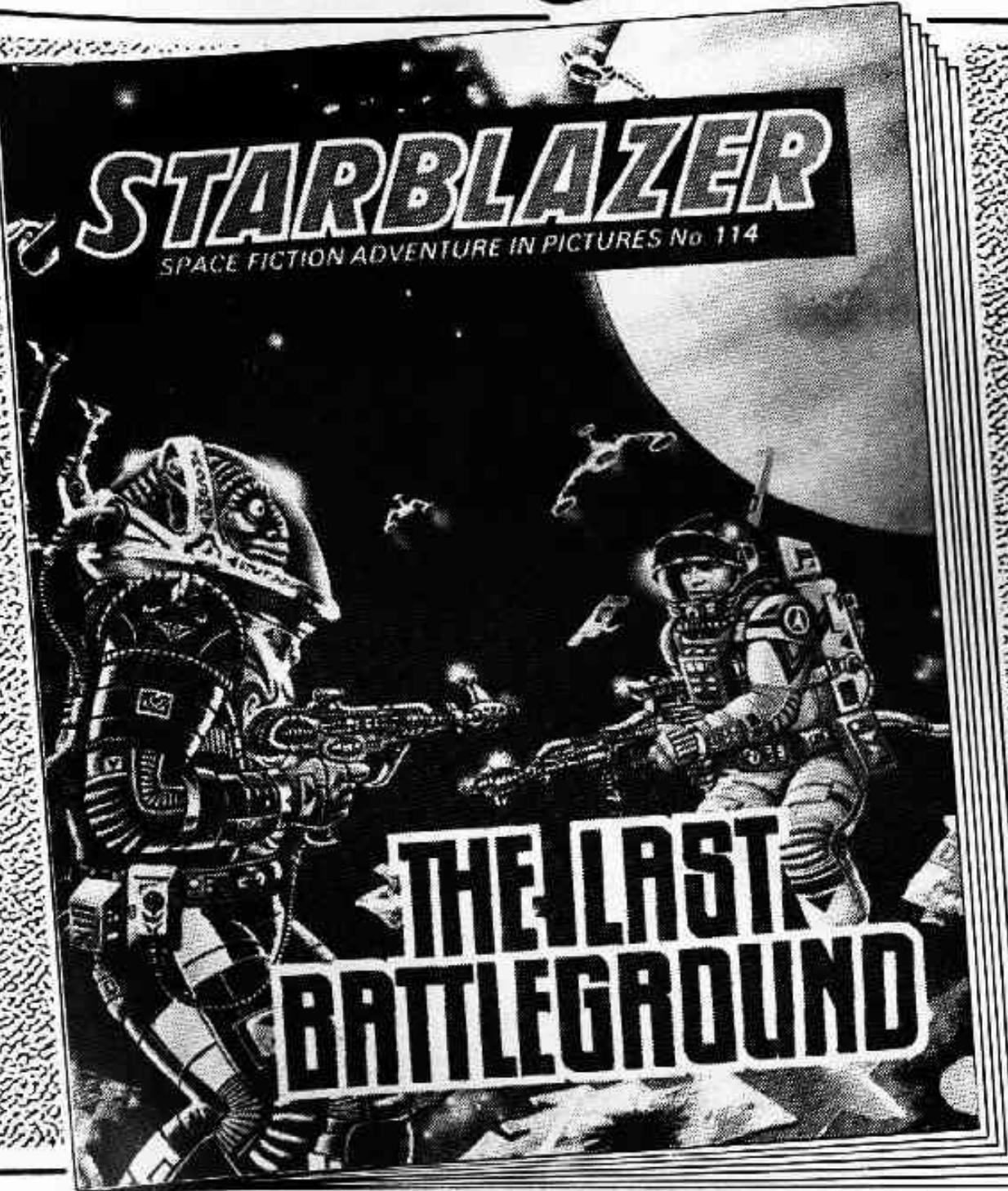
THE SHAPESHIFTERS GAMBLED EVERYTHING ON THIS ATTACK! THEY'RE FINISHED AS A THREAT TO ANYONE!



EARTH HAD BEATEN ITS CRUEL ENEMY, BUT NOW CAME THE HARDEST BATTLE, THE FIGHT TO REBUILD A SHATTERED EMPIRE FROM THE RUINS OF A MUTATED WILDERNESS.

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**DON'T FORGET THIS  
MONTH'S OTHER**



On sale at your newsagent's **NOW!!**



# STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN 22-23



**Gemini 7**, which was launched on December 4, 1965, crewed by Lt. Col. Frank Borman, 37, U.S.A.F. right, and Lt. Cdr. James Arthur Lovell, Jr., 37, U.S.N. The flight lasted 13 days 18 hours 35 minutes 17 seconds. Lovell flew as Gemini 12 command pilot on November 11, 1966 on a mission lasting 3 days 22 hours 34 minutes 31 seconds, and then again with Borman around the Moon on Apollo 8. December 21, 1968 was the launch date and the flight lasted 6 days 3 hours 0 minutes 42 seconds. He was also commander of the ill-fated Apollo 13, launched April 11, 1970 and which limped home after 5 days 22 hours 54 minutes 41 seconds.